

HONORING SONYA GISH OF
PENNSYLVANIA

HON. SCOTT PERRY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, today I'd like to honor Sonya Gish on her retirement after more than 30 years of service to the United States of America.

Through her work with the Information Technology Department at New Cumberland Army Depot, and her leadership role as Deputy Director, and later Director, of Distribution Policy and Processing at Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Distribution, her tireless dedication, professionalism and sacrifice touched the lives of countless people and challenged all with whom she worked with to be the best.

Her colleagues describe Sonya as the consummate role model and a truly indispensable asset to DLA Distribution. Her numerous promotions and awards exemplify an outstanding record of service to our Nation's warfighters and citizens. Through work ethic and character, Sonya has truly left an enduring legacy of service.

It is with great pride along with Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional district that I congratulate Sonya Gish on her retirement after more than 30 years of service to the United States of America.

COLONEL MICHAEL P. DIETZ

HON. ROGER WILLIAMS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the distinguished career and military service of Colonel Michael P. Dietz. An Alaskan native, Michael enlisted in the United States Army in Providence, Rhode Island in 1979. As an Enlisted Soldier, Michael served in Europe, Korea and Central America eventually achieving the rank of Staff Sergeant. In 1989, he was given a direct commission as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Corp. During the First Gulf War, he served with the Third Mobile Armored Corp as a Senior Intelligence Analyst.

Throughout the 1990s Colonel (COL) Dietz served in a series of positions of increasing responsibility in the area of military intelligence to include, operations officer of an Anti-Terrorist Response Team and culminating with the Deputy Command of the 6th Civil Support Team, an Anti-Terrorist Team specializing in Weapons of Mass Destruction. During this time, COL Dietz had operational control of response elements to the events of 9/11 and the Columbia Space Shuttle Disaster over East Texas.

In 2003, COL Dietz commanded mobile collection teams for the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) in Iraq. He later commanded the entire DIA effort in Afghanistan in 2004. Both positions required work with Allied Nations.

In 2008–2009, COL Dietz commanded the 636th Military Intelligence Battalion of the Texas National Guard. This is the number one rated MI Battalion in both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

COL Dietz, in his 36 years of service, has served combat tours with 101st Airborne Division, 82nd Airborne Division as a Battalion Commander, 3rd Army, 3rd Special Forces Group, United States Army Special Operations Command, 5th Special Forces Group, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the 636th MI Battalion.

COL Dietz is currently a member of the Warrior Transition Unit at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. This unit specializes in repairing wounded warriors. COL Dietz is in the process of being treated for numerous injuries that he sustained while deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He has been married for 31 years to Elly Del Prado Dietz and his daughter, Sharon is a 1st Lieutenant currently serving at Camp Mabry, Austin, Texas and his son, Aidan is a 2nd Lieutenant serving as an Airborne Infantry Platoon Leader in the 143rd INF BN (ABN).

COL Dietz's 36 years of distinguished service reflects great credit upon himself, the Texas Army National Guard, the United States Army and the United States of America. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I wish him and his family the very best in retirement.

TRIBUTE TO THE DOWLING
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL BOYS
CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Dowling Catholic High School Boys Cross Country team for winning the Iowa Class 4A State Cross Country Championship.

I would like to congratulate each member of the Team: Runners: Matthew Carmody, John Clingan, Jack Fink, Matt Fraizer, Skyler Riesberg, Jack Turner, and Ryan Schweizer; Head Coach: Timothy Ives; and Assistant Coaches: Duncan McLean, Gerard Amadeo, Ann Flood, and Kevin Lewis.

Mr. Speaker, the success of this team and their coaches demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication, and perseverance. I am honored to represent them in the United States Congress. I ask that all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating the team for competing in this rigorous competition and wishing them all nothing but continued success.

HONORING THE 240TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE NAVY CHAPLAIN
CORPS

HON. J. RANDY FORBES

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Mr. FORBES. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the 240th anniversary of the Navy Chaplain Corps. For 240 years, Navy chaplains have served with honor, courage, and selflessness, ensuring that our Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen are able to practice and grow in their faith, regardless of where they serve.

Our Navy chaplains are an invaluable pillar of their military communities. The role of a chaplain is inherently religious. As the makeup of our service members has expanded, the chaplaincy has expanded with it to include representatives reflecting the many faith traditions of our troops, including Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, Muslim, and Buddhist. When religious leaders become military chaplains, they pledge to equally serve all members of the armed forces, regardless of religious belief. Chaplains faithfully carry out this sacred duty each and every day.

While military chaplains are noncombatants and do not carry weapons, they still serve in harm's way. Sixteen Navy chaplains have given their lives providing religious and spiritual support for our men and women at war. Two Navy chaplains were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for their sacrificial ministry to their Sailors and Marines. Lieutenant Commander Joseph T. O'Callahan braved a fiery inferno to administer last rites and direct damage control operations aboard the stricken USS *Franklin* in 1945. Lieutenant Vincent R. Capodanno repeatedly exposed himself to intense enemy fire in Vietnam while administering last rites to dead and dying Marines, refusing treatment of his own wounds and directing corpsmen to his wounded comrades, before being killed while coming to the aid of another. Six naval ships have been named after chaplains with one, the destroyer USS *Laboon*, still in service.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me today in recognizing the brave and honorable service of Navy chaplains over the last 240 years.

COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING
JOYCE I. MARTRATT ON
50 YEARS OF CIVILIAN SERVICE
WITH THE U.S. AIR FORCE

HON. MADELINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mrs. Joyce I. Martratt on her 50 years of civilian service with the United States Air Force. Joyce has served in numerous capacities with the Air Force on Guam, and she has dedicated much of her professional life to furthering its mission and providing critical support to our Airmen.

Joyce was born to Jesus San Nicolas and Rosario Castro Camacho of Hagatna on August 28, 1939. She is the eldest of five children and endured the atrocities of war during the occupation of Guam during World War II. As a survivor of the war, she and her family relocated to the village of Mongmong, where they settled and began to rebuild their lives and homes. In 1955, Joyce was adopted by her Aunt Maria and Uncle Peling Castro in order for her to further her education as they moved to Washington, D.C. before resettling in San Francisco in 1956. She attended Oakland Community College while working for the Gallop Poll. She then moved back to Guam to attend the University of Guam. While at the University of Guam, she met her late-husband Herbert Sablan Leddy, and together they started a family. In 1984, Herbert passed away and Joyce later remarried Charlie Martratt.